



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: December 7, 2007

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Patrick Administration Presents Smart Growth/Smart Energy Awards *Projects in Five Communities Recognized at Smart Growth/Smart Energy Conference*

WORCESTER – Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray today presented Smart Growth/Smart Energy Awards to five communities, recognizing the efforts of municipalities and their public and private sector partners to design and build projects that conserve energy and other resources, protect and enhance the local environment, and meet other criteria of Governor Patrick's Sustainable Development Principles.

Today's awards went to Boston, Brookline, Groton, Kingston and the Devens Enterprise Commission at the former US Army base in Ayer, Shirley and Harvard.

"We are pleased to recognize the bold and creative steps these communities have taken to realize projects that are consistent with our Sustainable Development Principles," said Lieutenant Governor Murray, who presented the awards at today's fifth Annual Massachusetts Smart Growth/Smart Energy Conference in Worcester. "Our hope is that other communities will follow the example of these pioneers and implement similar projects that will have tremendous long-term benefits for individual communities and the Commonwealth."

The Patrick Administration selected winning projects based on their advancement of the state's Sustainable Development Principles, which were revised and updated earlier this year to reflect Governor Patrick's goals and priorities in clean energy and other areas. Components of these principles include:

- supporting revitalization of community centers and neighborhoods;
- concentrating development in compact communities that conserve land and integrate multiple uses;
- supporting community planning to ensure social, economic and environmental justice;
- expanding land and water conservation and protecting and restoring natural resources and cultural and historic landscapes;

- expanding renewable energy and reducing waste of water, energy and materials;
- increasing housing opportunities;
- increasing access to a variety of transportation options;
- attracting jobs;
- fostering sustainable natural resource-based businesses such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries; and
- supporting the development and implementation of local and regional plans.

Other criteria used to evaluate projects included effectiveness, level of innovation, extent of partnerships, and whether a project could serve as a model for others.

“The award winning projects reduce energy and water use and minimize their environmental impacts through sensitive site selection and design and construction of state-of-the-art, energy efficient buildings,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles, who also spoke at today’s conference. “They demonstrate ways in which homes, businesses and municipal buildings can be built in an environmentally and fiscally responsible way.”

2007 SMART GROWTH/SMART ENERGY AWARD WINNERS

City of Boston for the Ashmont Grill Project in Dorchester

The Ashmont Grill is a restaurant in the Peabody Square area of Dorchester near the Ashmont MBTA station that has been a catalyst for the area’s revitalization efforts. The chef-owner constructed and operates the restaurant using many eco-conscious principles. Sustainable features include: an outdoor patio with surrounding garden and permeable pavers that absorb storm water runoff; grease recycled from kitchen waste for bio-diesel fuel; hardwood floors milled from salvaged/recycled wood; and use of only locally grown or procured foods.

Town of Brookline for the Train Memorial Health Center

The Train Memorial Health Center, headquarters for the Brookline Health Department, is the first “green” building in Brookline. This project substantially renovated a municipal building and significantly reduced its greenhouse gas emissions. The project’s centerpiece is a 25 kW rooftop solar panel array designed to meet up to 40 percent of the building’s electric needs. Other features include double-glazed operable windows; an energy efficient HVAC system; low VOC paint, bamboo and cork floor and wall elements; low flow toilets and waterless urinals; an extensive recycling program; and automatic light sensors and faucets. Scores of individuals and organizations were mobilized to pursue sustainable development and to create an infrastructure for smart growth/smart energy well into the future.

Devens Enterprise Commission for the EcoStar Program

The Devens Enterprise Commission, working in concert with the EcoStar Program (an environmental branding and achievement program), has amended its development regulations numerous times since 1994 to promote and implement innovations in land use planning, industrial development and smart growth practices on this former US Army base in Ayer, Harvard and Shirley. EcoStar encourages economic development, environmental protection and community stewardship by providing educational forums, technical assistance, networking and partnering opportunities. Results include more compact development; pollution prevention; waste and toxics use reduction; water and energy efficiency; enhanced recycling; and the purchasing of environmentally preferable products.

Town of Groton for the Station Avenue Redevelopment Plan

This project involved the development of the Station Avenue Overlay District and Design Guidelines to foster integrated redevelopment and smart growth of the Station Avenue area of downtown Groton. Without this project, the 16 parcels would have been developed without consideration of how they fit into the Town's Master Plan goals and without extensive input from the community. The process used to develop these guidelines can be used by other communities to promote integrated redevelopment, especially the formation of a dedicated committee and explicit understanding of environmental constraints, traffic, parking and other issues affecting development.

Town of Kingston for "1021 Kingston's Place" 40R Bylaw, Design Standards

Kingston's 40R Smart Growth Zoning District is a premier example of successful land planning and regulatory reform. It combines strong community involvement and a public-private partnership and exemplifies Governor Patrick's Sustainable Development Principles. The success of the project resulted from the many organizations and individuals who worked together to create a plan to achieve the development goals. The proposed zoning was carefully coordinated with the Town's approved Master and Housing Plans to ensure consistency with broad public policy objectives. In addition to the construction sustainability required by the LEED-ND framework, this transit-oriented design truly advances the smart energy goals of the Town and the Commonwealth.

The award-winning projects will be used as case studies in state outreach and education efforts and featured on the Governor's Smart Growth/Smart Energy web page:

<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3subtopic&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Key+Priorities&L2=Smart+Growth+-+Smart+Energy&sid=Agov3>.

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